

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 141520Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

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USCINCSO

C O N F I B N E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1044

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, GY

SUBJECT: GUYANA ELECTION-RADIO BROADCAST OF PRIME MINIKTER
BURNHAM AND OPPOSITIO LEADER JAGAN

1. SUMMARY: IN FINAL WEEK OF ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN BOTH OPPOSITION
LEADER CHEDDI JAGAN OF PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY(PPP) AND
PRIMEMINISTER FORBES BURNHAM OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS(PNC)
MADE RADIO BROADCASTS TO GUYANESE PEOPLE. JAGAN DIRECTED HIS
ATTACK AGAINST PNC FOR VIOLATING CIVIL LIBERTIES, CORRUPTION,
AND ELECTION RIGGING.BURNHAM, IN SPECIAL BROADCAST, ANNOUNCED
MEASURES DESIGNED TO PROTECT ELECTORAL PROCESS(BUT WILL ACTUALLY
BE USED TO SAFEGUARD PNC RIGGING) AND HE AFFIRMED PNC COMMITMENT
TO MULTI-PARTY STATE SYSTEM. END SUMMARY.

2. CHEDDI JAGAN IN FINAL PPP ELECTORAL BROADCAST JULY 11 FOCUSED
ON ISSUE OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS WHICH HE ALLEGED WERE BEING
ATTACKED UNDER PNC GOVERNMENT. PPP LEADER CITED LAW FOR PREVENT-
ITIVE DETENTION, USE OF POLICE AGAINST RICE FARMERS AND WORKERS,
GAGGING OF PRESS, AND TURNING OF CIVIL SERVANTS, POLICE, AND
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ARMY INTONARM OF PNC AS EVIDENCE OF PNC FAILURE TO UPHOLD

CIVIL LIBERTIES.

3. JAGAN ALSO ACCUSED PNC OF WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION THOUSAND TIMES GREATER THAN WATERGATE. ACCORDING TO PPP LEADER, STEALING HAS BECOME HIGH ROAD TO SUCCESS AND EVEN WHOLE GOVERNMENT IS STOLEN BY RIGGED ELECTION. JAGAN ASKED WHY PNC REFUSES TO ALLOW UN OBSERVERS TO WATCH ELECTION AND TO PERMIT BALLOTS TO BE COUNTED AT POLLING PLACES. (NOTE: THERE IS NO PROVISION IN ELECTIO LAW FOR LOCAL COUTPING OF BALLOTS. THEY WILLBE COUNTED IN THREE CENTRAL LOCATIONS.)

4. IF PPP WERE IN POWER, JAGAN ASSERTED, THERE WOULD NOT BE TROUBLE AS PNC HAS CLAIMED. THINGS HAVE CHANGED INTERNATIONALLY AND NATIONALLY. BOTH PNC AND ITS INTERNATIONAL BACKERS(READ US) ARE TODAY WEAKENED. INSTEAD IT IS PNC THAT WANTS TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY TO ESTABLISH NEO-FASCIST DICTATORSHIP. PPP HAS CLEAR RECORD OF HONESTY, RESPECTS CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND IS AGAINST ONE PARTY STATE. JAGAN CONCLUDED BY CALLING FOR SOLID VOTE FOR PPP.

5. PM BURNHAM ADDRESSED PEOPLE IN SPECIAL RADIO BROADCAST JULY 12 TO WARN AGAINST DISRUPTION OF JULY 16 ELECTION AND TO AFFIRM HIS COMMITMENT TO MULTI-PARTY STATE. BURNHAM BEGAN BY THANKING PEOPLE FOR SUPPORTING HIS JUNE 25 CALL FOR CALM FOLLOWING RACIAL VIOLENCE ALONG EAST COAS ROAD. UNFORTUNATELY, BURNHAM NOTED, PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION PARTY(READ PPP) SEEMED DETERMINED TO PREVENT ORDERLY CONCLUSION TO ELECTION. LEADER OF OPPOSITION(READ CHEDDI JAGAN) HAS URGED CITIZENS TO DEMONSTRATE AT POLLING PLACES AFTER ELECTION IS OVER ON PRETEXT THAT BALLOTS BE COUNTED AT LOCAL POLLING PLACE. BURNHAM WARNED TO COUNT BALLOTS THIS WAY WOULD BE INVITATIO TO CHOAS AND IRREGULARITY.

6.GJTO ENSURE SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF ELECTORAL PROCESS, PM ANNOUNCED REGULATIONS MAKING INTERFERENCE WITH ACCESS TO POLLING PLACE, ACT OF VOTING, OR CONVEYANCE OR COUNTING OF BALLOTS CRIMINAL OFFENCE. ANY PERSON CONVICTED WILL BE LIABLE TO FINE, IMPRISONMENT, AND TEMPORARY LOSS OF NRIVILEGE OF VOTING AND SERVING IN PARLIAMENT. BURNHAM STRESSED HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE WANTON ATTEMPT TO DESTROY ELECTORAL PROCESS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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FRUSTRATE WILL OF PEOPLE.

7. BURNHAM WENT ON TO AFFIRM HIS TOTAL COMMITMENT TO UPHOLD-ING CONSTITUTION. HIS PARTY, PNC, BELIEVES IN PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY, RIGHT TO DISSENT, AND RIGHT TO FORM POLITICAL PARTIES. PM COMMENTED HIS GOVERNMENT IS WITHOUT BLEMISH AND ABOVE CRITICISM IN CONSTITUTIONAL PROPRIETY. BOTH HE AND HIS PARTY ARE OPPOSED TO ONE PARTY STATE FOR GUYANA. BURNHAM CON-

CLUDED BY ASKING ALL TO DO THEIR DUTY AT POLLS ON JULY 16.

8. COMMENT: AS CAMPAIGN DRAW TO ANTI-CLIMATIC FINISH, JAGAN AND BURNHAM HAVE EACH ATTEMPTED IN RADIO BROCASTS TO PORTRAY HIS PARTY AS ONLY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. IN FACT BOTH ARE SUSPECT. JAGAN AND PPP WHEN INPOWER IN EARLY 1960'S COMPROMISED SOME OF SAME CIVIL RIGHTS THEY ACCUSE PNC OF VIOLATING. BURNHAM AND PNC WHILE CLAIMING TO BE ENACTING REGULATIONS TO PROTECT ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL IN REALITY USE THOSE MEASURES TO SAFE-GUARD RIGGING OPERATIONS. FURTHER, BURNHAM'S ATTEMPT TO ALLAY FEARS BY VOICING COMMITMENT TO MULTI-PARTY SYSTEM FOLLOWS CAMPAIGN IN WHICH MACHINERY OF STATE FROM POLICE TO MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WERE MOBLIZED FOR PNC. YET OPPOSITION PARTIES WERE ALLOWED TO OPERATE AND CONDUCT THEIR CAMPAIGNS WITHOUT SIGNIFICANTLY MORE INTERFERENCE THAN THAT VISITED ON PNC BY OPPOSITION ACTIVISTS. KING

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